



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

1039 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
8455 BEVERLY BLVD.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90048

202-225-3976  
213-651-1040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 3, 1975

CONTACT: 651-1040

HOWARD ELINSON  
JEANNE MANFRED

## WAXMAN REJECTS MORTON COMPROMISE OFFER

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), one of the leaders of the fight against the Arab boycott has rejected an offer by Commerce Secretary Morton to comply partially with a House subpoena.

The House Commerce subcommittee on oversight of which Waxman is a member, subpoenaed all Commerce Department records on the Arab boycott. At first, Morton flatly refused to comply. The subcommittee then voted to hold the Secretary in Contempt of Congress. In a counter-move, Morton offered to supply the Committee with the subpoenaed documents on the condition that they be kept confidential.

In refusing the Morton offer, Waxman insisted that the subcommittee had a Constitutional right to examine Commerce Department documents without "making any deals with or promises to the Administration."

"Our Committee does not need an agreement with Mr. Morton to make it appreciate the confidential nature of certain documents. If it is contrary to the national interest or serves no useful public purpose to disclose the contents of subpoenaed material, we will have the sense of responsibility to keep it secret."

"The Commerce Department files may confirm my worst suspicions. They may show that current laws have not resulted in an effective U.S. policy against the Arab boycott. If this is the case, it will be imperative that we share the evidence with the full Congress and the American people," Waxman said.

Waxman expressed the belief that the majority of the members of the subcommittee would support Committee Chairman John Moss in his insistence on full and unconditional compliance with the Committee's subpoena. According to Waxman the Committee's contempt vote against Morton was "not a mere gesture, but rather a serious expression of our determination to assert Congressional rights against the myth of Executive privilege."

#####